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FACT SHEET

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Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Project CFCC Launches New Initiative

This new initiative will assist courts and agencies to comply with the ICWA by providing education and technical assistance at a limited number of local courts.

Educational offerings include regional trainings and workshops addressing the following topics:

- When ICWA Applies
- Exclusive Versus Concurrent Jurisdiction
- Determination of Tribal Membership or Eligibility for Membership
- Notice to Tribes
- Tribal Participation and Intervention
- Active Efforts, Including Culturally Appropriate Services
- Placement Preferences
- Qualified Expert Witnesses

Technical assistance may include reviewing local protocols, providing helpful checklists, sharing successful strategies from around the state and the country, as well as facilitating system meetings to identify areas for improving compliance. Project staff will assist courts and agencies by providing useful tools and identifying concrete steps that can be taken to improve compliance.

Every effort will be made to tailor educational offerings to meet the needs identified by state court participants and tribal representatives. Project staff may request to review files, observe courtroom proceedings, and interview court system participants in order to ascertain how best to focus workshops and facilitate court system meetings. Due to limited resources, these services are available in a select number of jurisdictions.

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